

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00

A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 EB-07 ACDA-05 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

USSH-00 SCCT-01 CU-02 PPT-01 COME-00 PER-01 /115 W

----- 048852

O P 091455Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6584

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: UPSURGE IN FIGHTING LESS THAN FEARED

REF: BEIRUT 12544 (8 OCT 75 1420Z)

1. BEIRUT HAD A STORMY NIGHT OCT 8-9 IN SEVERAL AREAS, BUT CLASHES DID NOT ESCALATE AS MUCH AS OBSERVERS HAD FEARED. THE MOSLEM REACTION TO THE BAKERY INCIDENT MORNING OCT 8 (REFTEL) SEEMS TO HAVE SPENT ITSELF DURING THE REST OF THAT DAY AS FIRES WERE SET IN CHRISTIAN STORES IN THE CITY'S CENTER. EXCHANGES OF FIRE AND DYNAMITINGS THEREAFTER REVERTED TO THE USUAL INTENSITY OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS. (A CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCED FOR 1500 HOURS OCT 8 WAS GENERALLY IGNORED.) WITH PRIVATE MILITIAMEN OF ALL CAMPS BACK AT THEIR BARRICADES, THE SECURITY PICTURE HAS DEGENERATED TO ABOUT WHERE IT WAS IN LATE SEPT BEFORE SECURITY FORCES BEGAN TO TAKE OVER THESE STRONGPOINTS.

2. MOST ROUTES INTO THE CITY ARE INSECURE TODAY, OCT 9, AND TRAFFIC IS VERY LIGHT. THE COMMON DAYTIME LULL IN THE FIGHTING PREVAILS AS OF 1200 HOURS (LOCAL) OCT 9.

3. THE TRIPOLI-ZGHORTA FRONT IN NORTH LEBANON WAS ALSO ACTIVE YESTERDAY. IN CARRYING OUT ITS TASK OF SEPRATING THE TWO FEUDING SIDES, THE ARMY BECAME ENGAGED IN EXCHANGES OF FIRE AGAINST BOTH SIDES AT DIFFERENT TIMES. ICURRING 4 KILLED AND 27 WOUNDED IN THE PROGRESS.

4. THE POLITICAL SCENE YESTERDAY WAS MARKED BY DISPUTES AMONG GOVT LEADERS OVER HOW TO COPE WITH THE RENEWED HEAVY VIOLENCE BOTH PREMIER KARAME AND INTMIN CHAMOUN ARE SAID TO HAVE TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TEMPORARILY, THE FORMER OUT OF FRUSTRATION AT THE INSOLUBLE CRISIS AND THE LATER BECAUSE HE AGAIN WANTED TO CALL UPON THE ARMY, AND KARAME TURNED HIM DOWN. BOTH RESIGNATIONS WERE REPORTEDLY REJECTED BY PRES FRANGIE. KARAME WAS THEN URGED TO CONFER IN DAMASCUS TODAY WITH SYRIAN LEADERS. THIS SUGGESTION MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED IN PART BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEWS, AS YET UNCONFIRMED, THAT UNKNOWN PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS INSTIGATED SOME OF THE FIGHTING OCT 7-8. THUS, URGING SYRIA TO RESTRAIN THE PALESTINIANS MAY BE ONE ON KARAMES PURPOSES. A GENERAL REVIVAL OF SYRIA'S SUCCESSFUL EDIATION EARLIER IN ROUND 4 IS PROBABLY ALSO AN AIM.

5M KARAME MET THIS MORNING IN DAMASCUS WITH SYRIAN PREMEIR AYOUBI AND PRES ASAD. RESULTS OF THE MEETING ARE NOT YET KNOW.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT YASSER' ARAFAT IS ALSO IN DAMASCUS TODAY,  
AND THERE IS SPECULATION HE WILL BE BROUGHT IN ON THE DISCUSSIONS.

6. ALTHOUGH IS IS NOT YET ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY, OBSERVERS HERE  
ASSUME THAT TODAY'S SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE "NATIONAL DIALOGUE  
COMMITTEE" WILL BE POSTPONED DUE TO KARAME'S ABSENCE IN DAMASCUS.

7. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THE NEW UPSURGE IN FIGHTING  
HAS NOT HARMED ANY AMCITS. WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT OFFICAL  
TRAVELERS TO BEIRUT ABIDE BY THE RESTRICTIONS OF STATE 222785  
(NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS MESSAGES CITED THEREIN, AND THAT PRIVATE  
TRAVELERS BE ADVISED NOT TO COME TO BEIRUT FOR TIME  
BEING.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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